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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248469
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FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 16515 ACTION STATE INFO
BEIJING SEOUL 17 SEP 80.
QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16515
E.O. 12065: GDS 2/ 17/86 (IMMERMAN, ROBERT) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, KS, JA
SUBJECT: (U) REACTION TO SENTENCING OF KIM DAE JUNG
1. (C) SUMMARY: GOJ REACTION TO DEATH SENTENCE OF KIM DAE JUNG HANDED DOWN BY KOREAN COURT IS OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY ONE OF GRAVE CONCERN AND CAREFUL WATCHFULNESS. B1, A3

INITIAL PRESS REPORTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES' REACTIONS ARE NOTED. END SUMMARY.
2. (U) GOJ REACTION. OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC REACTION IS ONE OF CONCERN AND WATCHFUL WAITING. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY MIYAZAWA TOLD THE PRESS AT HIS 1100 HOURS PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT. 17 THAT GOJ VIEWED KIM'S SENTENCE

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WITH "DEEP CONCERN". DURING FOREIGN MINISTER ITO'S PRESS CONFERENCE THE SAME DAY, REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT KIM'S SENTENCE COULD BE APPEALED TO HIGHER COURTS SO THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR THE SITUATION THROUGH THE APPEALS PROCESS. MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA (NORTHEA) DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR NAKAMOTO'S REACTION, AS EXPRESSED TO EMBOFF, WAS IDENTICAL: MOFA WILL CONTINUE TO EXPRESS IT'S CONCERN AND WAIT FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE APPELLATE PROCESS.
3. (C)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Tuple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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4. (U) POLITICAL PARTIES' REACTION. SEPT. 17 AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTS REACTIONS TO KIM'S SENTENCING BY THE LDP, JSP, KOMEI, DSP, AND JCP. LDP DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL NURIHARA IS QUOTED TO THE EFFECT THAT, THOUGH THE SENTENCE IS TOO SEVERE, THE TRIAL IS NOT OVER UNTIL THE APPEALS PROCESS IS COMPLETED. THEREFORE, THE LDP WILL WATCH FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS "WITH DEEP INTEREST AND CONCERN." THE JCP'S STANDING PRESIDIUM'S STATEMENT "SEVERELY DENOUNCES THE CHUN DOO HWAN FACIST GOVERNMENT'S CRIMINAL ACT AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S COMPLICITY IN IT." THE SOCIALISTS (JSP) ARE REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE COURT'S DECISION VIOLATES THE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ROKG AND GOJ, AND THEY CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO RECALL AMBASSADOR SONOBE AND TO SUSPEND BILATERAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. KOMEITO INTERNATIONAL BUREAU CHIEF KUROYANAGI CALLED THE DEATH SENTENCE "EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE," AND DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE "ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS" TO SAVE KIM'S LIFE. REFLECTING CLOSE TIES WITH THE LDP, DSP REACTION WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF LDP, ITS STATEMENT READING "THE TRIAL OF KIM DAE JUNG WILL GO THROUGH SECOND AND THIRD STAGES. IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS. WE REQUEST THAT THE ROK GOVERNMENT SHOW SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AT THE FINAL STAGE OF THIS PROBLEM."

5. (C) [redacted]

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